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### **ECONOMIC GROWTH**

**(Economic Reform, Private Sector Development, Trade and Agriculture)**

#### **Super Region projects awed foreign partner**

**(Source: SunStar Davao News Online – 3/18/08)**

THE United States Agency for International Development (USAid) is optimistic on the current trend of the Super Regions project of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

"Last year, my call was to show me, but now I can already say that you did show me," this was the statement made by Jon Lindhborg, USAid country representative, in Friday's 3rd National Government Infrastructure Forum held in Davao City.

The forum was attended by the different members of the Pro-Performance System (PPS) steering committee led by the PPS chair Secretary Cerge Remonde.

PPS is the body organized to ensure efficient implementation and monitoring of the various infrastructure projects under the Super Regions program.

Lindhborg stressed optimism in his speech, saying he witnessed the problems encountered by the program in the past year and how the administration was able to resolve those problems and issues just so the projects will remain on track.

"The Philippines is moving forward and we see real progress happening in the country," he said after listening from the infrastructure updates presented by Development Champion for Mindanao Super Region Secretary Jesus Dureza.

USAid is extending a total of P73 billion for 27 projects in the Mindanao Super Region.

Mindanao is touted as the Agribusiness Region, along with the other super regions like the North Luzon Agribusiness Quadrangle, Luzon Urban Beltway, Cyber Corridor, and Central Philippines Tourism Development.

Remonde stressed that various infrastructure projects included in the Super Region program are to be completed on or before the end of Arroyo's term.

While some of the projects have already been completed, such as the Diosdado Macapagal Bridge in Butuan City, 210 Coal Plant, and 950-kilowatt Power Plant in Cagayan de Oro, the government is also urging local and foreign investors to take a look and invest in ongoing projects such as the Panguil Bay development program, various power plants, and agribusiness projects.